ASSEMBLY, No. 3766

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 2, 2014

Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman CELESTE M. RILEY
District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)
Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK
District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:
Assemblyman Fiocchi

SYNOPSIS

Makes Fiscal Year 2015 General Fund appropriation of $250,000 for restoration and maintenance of A.J. Meerwald.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/8/2015)

A SUPPLEMENT to "An Act making appropriations for the support of the State Government and the several public purposes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 and regulating the disbursement thereof," approved June 30, 2014 (P.L.2014, c.14).

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.2014, c.14, there is appropriated out of the General Fund the following sum for the purpose specified:

74 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

30 EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

37 CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

GRANTS-IN-AID

07-2540 Development of Historical Resources	$250,000
Total Grants-In-Aid Appropriation, Cultural and Intellectual Development Services .	$250,000

Grants In Aid:

07 Bayshore Discovery Project – A.J. Meerwald ($250,000)

2. This act shall take immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill will appropriate $250,000 from the General Fund to the Bayshore Discovery Project to provide funding for the restoration and maintenance of the A.J. Meerwald. The A.J. Meerwald was restored under the Delaware Bay Schooner Project and designated as the State's official tall ship on April 21, 1998. The ship sails as a symbol of the heritage of the maritime and the Delaware Bay Oyster industries in New Jersey.

The original A.J. Meerwald, an indigenous New Jersey vessel known as a Delaware Bay Oyster Schooner was built in 1928 with the particular needs of the New Jersey oyster industry in mind. It was characterized by its unique gaff rigging, a spoon bow, and a double sawn oak beam with oak planks. The Delaware Bay Oyster industry provided employment, created wealth and a treasured way of life, and instilled a source of pride in generations of New Jerseyans.

The Delaware Bay Schooner Project uses the A.J. Meerwald as a sailing classroom to promote ecological and historical awareness of the Delaware Bay and the waters of New Jersey and surrounding regions. In June 1995, the South Jersey Land Trust acknowledged the Delaware Bay Schooner Project for building stewardship for the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Delaware Bay with

the mission of motivating people to take care of the history, the culture, and the environment of New Jersey's Bayshore region through education, preservation, and example. Also in1995, the A.J. Meerwald was included in the National Register of Historic Places. Two years later, in 1997, New Jersey enacted laws to develop a shellfish aquaculture to protect and preserve the oyster population, to produce more oysters, and to protect the industry from fluctuations in the wild oyster population and natural disasters.

The following list of awards are a testament to the A.J. Meerwald and the Bayshore Discovery Project for the profound impact the program has had on the awareness of the ecological and historical value of the Delaware Bay and the Bay's economic and cultural contributions to New Jersey.

- In December 2000, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection honored the Delaware Bay Schooner Project with its Award of Appreciation and Recognition for Watershed Management.
- On September 25, 2001, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Inc. presented the Delaware Bay Schooner project with the Second Annual Excellence in Estuary Water Education for their proactive efforts in developing and sustaining water-based educational programs.
- On April 10, 2003, the New Jersey Office of Travel and Tourism, at the New Jersey Governor's Conference on Tourism, presented the 2003 New Jersey Heritage Tourism Award to the Bayshore Discovery Project (formerly known as the Delaware Bay Schooner Project).
- On November 5, 2005, at the 33rd Annual Conference in Bay City, Michigan, the American Sailing Training Association (ASTA) presented the Sea Education Program of the Year Award to the Bayshore Discovery Project in recognition of the Bayshore Discovery Project's significant contribution to the educational credibility of program under sail.
- In 2009, the Bayshore Discovery Project was presented with the 2009 Sail Trainer of the Year Tall Ships of America Award.
- In 2011, the Bayshore Discovery Project was presented with the Environmental Protection Agency 2011 Environmental Quality Award.
- On May 1, 2012, the Bayshore Discovery Project was presented with the Historic Preservation Award by the New Jersey Office of Historic Preservation.
- On May 8, 2014, the Bayshore Discovery Project was presented with the Vernacular Architecture Forum Advocacy Award for the protection and preservation of our vernacular built heritage - recognizing outstanding initiative,

commitment, and action to promote and protect vernacular resources.